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# The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, *November* 22. 1692. Licens'd, *E. B.*

Quest. 1. *A Young Lady that loves Plays mightily, desires your Opinion, if it be not better to go in a Mask, than to expose her Face to all the Company?*

*Answ.* Does she do any thing she's asham'd of in going thither? If she is not, she well may, as most of the Plays, and we think very near all the Comedies now are; for we can't imagine how it can be a very agreeable Entertainment to a Vertuous Person, to sit still for two or three hours, and see *Vice* either dress'd as handsomly as possible, or mollifi'd by some gentler Name; or o' t'other side *Vertue*, shown with a Fools Coat on, or represented as an old unfashionable unpracticable business. But to the Question, If she goes there often, she knows how the Masks are treated, and what they are reputed. Upon the whole, since 'tis ill to go either with a Mask, or without one, 'tis e'ne better never go at all, unless the Stage were reform'd, which if it once were, there's no doubt to be made but t'wou'd be as useful as now 'tis mischievous to the World.

Quest. 2. *A Young Lady that is contracted to a Person as far as Oaths and Vows can bind, is importun'd by her Relations to marry another, and one for whom she has an extream Aversion: She desires to know how far her Duty obliges her to obey them in this matter?*

*Answ.* This has been often enough answer'd in effect, tho' not in Terms. If those Vows and Oaths were made without, or against the Consent of her Relations, she's to repent of 'em, but cannot break 'em; but ought not however to marry against their Inclinations, as they ought not to force her contrary to her own.

Quest. 3. *A Person some time since address'd himself to a young Lady, and gain'd her Affections, but since finds his Parents against the prosecution of the Amour: He desires therefore your plain Advice, how he may manage Affairs, without being Disobedient to his Parents, or wronging the Lady?*

*Answ.* Still we say things of that Nature ought not to be set about by those who are under the Direction of Superiors, without their Approbation and leave. And even when the Amour is begun, as in the present Case, if there is no Promise or Obligation, either formal or virtual, (in effect, or in plain words) the young Persons wou'd do very well to disengage their Hearts as fast as they can from each other: Tho if any such thing be past'd, as in Question 2d. 'twill be now too late to attempt any thing of that Nature; all therefore he has to do is, if his Parents can by no means be mollify'd, to marry no other Person till their *Deaths*, tho they do not do well to put him under such a Temptation, of wishing it before the time.

Quest. 4. *A Gentleman of the Temple having had some 20 years since, a Criminal Familiarity with a Cousin* German *of his, who is now upon her Marriage to a Gentleman of Fortune, he desires your Advice, whether or no he's bound in Conscience to declare it to her intended* Husband?

*Answ.* He's oblig'd to marry her himself, if their Circumstances will permit; if not, they ought both to live single, either of which if the Woman refuse, we think he ought to acquaint the Gentleman with it, if there's no other way to break the Match, nor out of a mistaken point of Generosity, let an honest Gentleman marry such a Woman.

Quest. 5. *What's the Reason that well accomplish'd Gent. that have good Estates, and no Encumbrances, and consequently might have choice enough, do yet frequently take such Wives as have neither Wit, Fortune or Beauty?*

*Answ.* We won't be so unjust as to ask —— Where is the Gentleman that's well Accomplish'd, and has a a *good Estate*; but we must needs put two Questions more: —The first, Where is any such whose Estate has no *Encumbrances*? And secondly, If such can be found, where can Instances be given of their playing the *Romantick Lovers* at that inexcuseable rate, as the Querist supposes: And when we are satisfy'd in these matters, 'twill be time enough to give our Querist a fuller Answer.

Quest. 6. *I have above a Year Courted a Vertuous young Gentlewoman, of equal Birth and Fortune to my own, to whom I might have been some time since marry'd, had not my Friends hinder'd it. I did indeed make my Addresses to her, without acquainting them with it, but at the same time I had no intention of marrying without their Consent, and I had reason to hope I shou'd obtain it: Since my Courtship of her, something has happen'd that makes her Expectation of a further Fortune not so likely as before, but after having engaged her Affections to retract upon such a Motive, I look upon as dishonest, as well as 'tis against my Inclinations. She is of Age, and without Parents, and her present Fortune, such as I believe sufficient to maintain us till my Employment will bring us in a better Subsistence: I have made my Application to my Friends, to obtain their Consent, thô without success; whereas at the same time I find a* necessity of Marrying *either her or some other: I therefore desire to be resolved, Whether as the Case is, I may do it against my Parents consent without Sin?*

*Answ.* If that *necessity* you talk of be real, and absolute, we think you ought to marry, thô first to get some Friend to acquaint your Relations with your Circumstances, to try if 'tis possible to prevail for their *Consent*.

Quest. 7. *A young Lady having the misfortune to fall in Love with a Person above her Quality, desires your Advice how she may most prudently manage her self in this Concern?*

*Answ.* Manage your self so as to forget him, or take off your Affections from him, if there's no probability of having him, the days of Knight-Errantry are over, (except a very rare dropping on't now and then) and Persons are not often in the Humour to marry those of an Inferiour Quality. As for the manner how to perform this difficult task, which you'll find much eatier now, than 'twill be if it takes deeper root: First, resolve as much as possible never to think of him; or when the Importunate Thought will take no denyal, out with't agen as fast as it presses in, till you turn the Stream, or make it weary; as you never think of him, so never see him, or Converse with him; keep much in Company and Diversion; and use your Reason to curb your Passion, the very end for which Nature gave it: Think how Indigestible a repulse wou'd be, and how cheaply our *ungenerous Sex* for the most part esteem those who fall in Love with 'em. But above all, if you can possible, Madam, perswade some Body else of more equal Fortunes to fall passionately in Love with you, and if that don't cure ye, Nothing but Marriage ever will.

Quest. 8. *Some years since I marry'd a Wife with a good Fortune, who I am satisfy'd has since prov'd false to me: The Question is, Whether I may, without any sin against God, turn her out of Doors, and leave her to shift for her self?*

*Answ.* A Man ought to be *very certain* in things of that Nature, before he takes violent Resolutions. But if you are so your self, unless you can make legal proof on't, our Laws are so kind, that she'll recover Alimony: If therefore you can have any Security of her Amendment, you'd do a great Act if you *cou'd forgive* her, and which, if she has any thing of Ingenuity, will make her a better *Wife* than ever. And however, you ought to restore her Fortune to her; if you do otherwise, that is the true Case, and the other the Pretence only.

Quest

Queſt. 9. *A Lady who was lately a Celebrated Beauty having had the Small Pox, is thereby extreamly diſfigur'd and alter'd — which has ſtruck her into ſo deſperate a Melancholly that her Friends are afraid ſhe ſhou'd do her ſelf ſome Violence; to prevent which if poſſible, pray be ſo kind to Anſwer theſe two Queſtions — 1. If there's any thing to be uſed which will take out the Pitts or Scarrs left by this Diſeaſe? — 2. If this can't be done, What Means may be uſed to quiet her Mind under this Condition?*

*Anſw.* To the firſt, there are a thouſand Remdies to make the Pitts much leſs viſible, tho' perhaps none to take 'em quite away. The better Method wou'd be for the Lady to endeavour to ſatisfie her ſelf with her Condition, which one wou'd think ſhou'd not be difficult, at leaſt not impoſſible to be done, if ſhe conſiders that ſhe is a Chriſtian, and ought to ſubmit to God's Providence — That Beauty is ſuch a Toy, 'tis ſcarce worth being concern'd for the loſs on't, that when 'tis Eminent 'tis dangerous, and that a few Years out of the Grave, or a few Moments in it, wou'd ſpoil the beſt Face in the World.

Queſt. 10. *A certain Perſon of Honour upon her Death-Bed deſired to receive the Sacrament, and upon receiving ſhe declares her ſelf to dye in perfect Charity with all the World, unleſs with the Woman who was marry'd to her Son; the Divine reply'd he could not blame her as to the Exception againſt her Daughter in Law, becauſe he underſtood ſhe was of a different Perſwaſion, and thereupon Adminiſtred accordingly: Your Opinion is earneſtly deſired as to the Salvable Eſtate of the dying Perſon, and how far the Doctor's Behaviour in the Matter may be Cenſur'd?*

*Anſw.* The Story is ſo odd we can hardly think it probable, and deſire the Queriſt to ſend the Name of the Divine, that we may be ſatisfy'd in the Truth on't. In the mean time on ſuppoſition that the Fact is true, our Anſwer is, that we think both the Perſons concern'd did very ill — But as for the Gentlewomans Eternal Condition, we deſire to be excuſed from giving our Judgment, 'till we are taken into the *Cabinet-Councel of Heaven?*

Queſt. 11. *There's a certain young Gentlewoman is ſo taken with your Reſpect and Civility to the Fair Sex, that ſhe's paſſionately in Love with your Society, and wou'd gladly be one of yours for Life* —— *The* Query *is, Whether having prais'd her Sex ſo much, you are not oblig'd in Honour to accept of this longing Lady?*

*Anſw.* Would ſhe have *all* or *ſome* of us? or muſt we part her among us? or ſuppoſing we are already provided, muſt we have two Wives, and be Hang'd to ſave her longing? All we can do for her we will, and if any ſhou'd chance to be in as much want of a Wife as ſhe is of a Husband, if ſhe'll let's know her Marks, we Promiſe to put her into our next Advertiſement.

Queſt. 12. *You were* ( Gentlemen ) *lately pleaſed to gratifie a Lady with a Receipt to prevent her growing Fat, which having your* Probatum *to it, I know ſeveral do intend to try it; but I have a near Relation that requeſts the contrary Receipt from you; he has a Wife he loves extreamly, and who has all the Qualities are to be deſired to recommend her to his Affection, only ſhe is very Lean, and he beggs of you, if you know any thing that will really make her grow Fat, you would favour them with the knowledge of it? it being a thing that would make her ſo much more Amiable in his Eyes, and he will for ever acknowledge his Obligation for ſo great a Benefit.*

*Anſw.* Firſt Purge the Lady two or three times with thoſe *Popular-Pills* preſcribed to the Lady to obtain Leanneſs, then to alter the Lady's Habit farther, let her indulge Eaſe, Sleep and Appetite, by Drinking what is ſweet and ſtrong, as Ale, Mum, Malago, Tent, Sack, Caudles, New Eggs, Broths, Gellies, and what her Appetite pleaſes, and not to riſe for a few Dayes but to have her Bed made, but Eat and Drink her fill, and often in Bed or in a very gentle Bath, and her Fleſh will plump: And her Morals will grow worſe in the ſame proportion as ſhe grows plumper, if ever ſhe doth ſo. *Probatum eſt.*

Queſt. 13. *The Queſtion that I have to trouble you with is this, Why a Man that of all things in the World hates his Wife, ſhould be jealous of her, for him whom he pretends a great deal of Friendſhip to, and at the ſame time declares his mind to? your ſpeedy Anſwer in this will be very acceptable to your Humble Servant,* &c.

*Anſw.* He may be aſhamed to own he Loves her for ſome remarkable reaſon, as he may think, and having by his Actions and Speeches ſeemed to declare he hates her, yet it's not ſo really by the Effect mention'd in the Queſtion; and perhaps his Love is ſo ſtrong to his Friend, that he is Jealous leaſt ſhe whom he hates ſhould love him whom he loves; or he hates alſo the Character of a Cuckold, that may make him jealous.

Queſt. 14. *Why Hair upon a Man or Woman's Head alters its Colour, and grows white? and alſo why two or more Hairs ſtanding together, one ſhall grow white, the other continue its natural or firſt Colour? and likewiſe why the Hairs of Horſes, Cows, Dogs, and other Beaſts are ſpotted, ſome white, ſome red, and ſome black, all upon one Beaſt?*

*Anſw.* This Queſtion has been Anſwer'd in the extraordinary Caſes of thoſe that turned grey in one Night, and what is done by degrees, as Men ordinarily grow grey, is there alſo diſcuſſed: As for the Colours of Beaſts, 'tis probable they were the ſame at the firſt Creation, and Varied by the Idea's and Alterations procur'd by promiſcuous Copulation, as Dog with Foxes, and Wolves, *&c.*

☞ If the Lady who formerly Oblig'd us and the Publick with the Queſtion of the *Patches*, will pleaſe to ſend in the reſt which came at the ſame time, they ſhall be Anſwer'd in the next *Love-Paper*, ſince we doubt not but they'll be well *worth* it.

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## Advertiſements.


☞ THe *Firſt Volume* of *THE PACQUET BROKE OPEN* having met with a very kind Reception, ( the *Second Volume* will be Printed on an Extraordinary *good Paper*, and Publiſh'd about *February* next ) this is therefore to give Notice that the Publiſher of the ſaid *Firſt Volume* has receiv'd from a *Young Lady* all the Letters ſent her during a *long Courtſhip*, which ſhall be inſerted in the Second Volume aforementioned, with the Ladies *Ingenious Anſwers* to all his Letters. Further this is to Advertiſe, that if any other Gentlemen or Ladies have any LETTERS, ſent 'em either from their *Lovers*, or *Ingenious Friends*, a Publication of which ( with *Remarks* thereon ) will either ſatisfie them or gratifie the Publick, if they pleaſe to Direct 'em *For Mr. CHAPPEL*, to be left at *Smith's Coffee-houſe* in *Exchange-market*, they ſhall be Printed, together with thoſe Letters deſign'd for *The ſaid Second Volume*: And thoſe Letters ſent in according to this *Advertiſement*, ſhall be mark'd with an Aſteriſm, to diſtinguiſh 'em from thoſe taken from the Poſt — Whoever have any *Ingenious Letters* to ſend, they are deſired to ſend 'em ſpeedily, the *SECOND VOLUME* being juſt going to the Preſs.

☞ A *Mourning King in Memory of your Departed Friend*, containing, The Houſe of Weeping; The Sick-man's Paſſing-Bell; The Author's Tears, or Meditations on his own Sickneſs, Death and Funeral; The Hiſtory of thoſe that have dyed ſuddenly. Obſervations on the Bills of Mortality: With a comprehenſive Diſcourſe of Monuments, Epitaphs, and other Funeral Honours. *The Second Edition.* Proper to be given at Funerals. Printed for *John Dunton* at the *Raven* in the *Poultry*.

☞ IN *Grays-Inn-lane* in *Plow-yard*, the third Door, lives Dr. *Thomas Kirleus*, a Collegiate Phyſician, and Sworn Phyſician in Ordinary to King *Charles* the Second, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill ( hindring no buſineſs ) undertakes to Cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Noſe, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leproſies, and Venerial Diſeaſe, expecting nothing until the Cure be finiſhed: Of the laſt he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and ſo deſtroys many. The Drink is 3 *s.* the Quart, the Pill 1 *s.* a Box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanſe the Body of all Impurities, which are the cauſes of Dropſies, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. With another Drink at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a Quart. He cures all Fevers and hot Diſtempers without Bleeding, except in few Bodies. He gives his Opinion to all that writes or comes for nothing.



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